

January 29, 2003
MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m.

Bob Kober introduced himself as new MCA Chairman for the technical committee. Bob discussed a format for the meetings in which the MDT has the floor first to introduce new topics from the MDT. After the new topics are covered, old business will be discussed. Then the new business will be discussed. Topics not resolved by the fourth meeting will be either elevated to the executive committee or pulled from discussion. Bob asked that the minutes show a resolution date for each topic. Bob then turned the floor over to Mark Wissinger. The topics will be shown in the New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

1.Changes to the Ride Specification. Matt Strzich was unable to attend the meeting to respond to MCA's questions dealing with incentives being used to offset disincentives in the Ride Specification. MCA's concern is that this specification as written is not being uniformly administered across the state. MDT will review the specification again and comment back at the next meeting.

2.Submittal Requirements in Contracts. Mark Wissinger explained that progress is being made and once the department is further along with the review process, it will present its results and request MCA comment. MDT could not define a firm time line.

3. Bridge Pile Specifications. MCA has asked to extend the comment period to ensure all members have the ability to comment. The comment period was open until 2-3-03, but now it will be open until 2-24-03. After the comment period is closed, there will be a group meeting to issue the final changes.

4. Final Estimates. The discussion included the timing of submission of certificates of completion and final estimates. Based on MCA's comments, MDT is reviewing the process and will comment at the next meeting.

5. Concrete Acceptance. MDT is extending the comment period on the draft supplemental specifications for section 551 to ensure MCA has a chance to get all comments submitted.

6. Heavy Duty Cattle Guard Bases. MDT is working towards developing a detailed drawing for these bases. A precast base has been approved for one project. MDT will approve precast concrete bases on a project-by-project basis. MCA asked if there would be any major changes between what has been approved and what will be included in the detailed drawing. Mark Wissinger stated the drawing might include a drain hole or weep hole.

7. Standard Specification 108.03. MCA expressed concern over proposed schedule requirements and penalties associated with non-compliance with the schedule requirements. MCA furnished a copy of concerns from one contractor. MDT will reevaluate the specification after reviewing the comments. MDT will comment at the next meeting.

8. Petrographic Testing of Aggregate Sources. MDT polled other states to see if there was any common test for deleterious materials. No common tests were found. The department is going to make modifications to its test to ensure the test is repeatable. The Materials Bureau will furnish a draft at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. MDT's websight modifications. Mark Wissinger and Suzi Althof gave an update on establishing Project Specific Question and Answer (Q&A) on the Department's websight. MCA asked when this would be accessible. MDT indicated that once the sight is developed, it will require testing before it can be used. MCA asked if the Q&A would be included as part of the contract. There was general discussion on whether the Q&A is contractually binding or informational. MCA expressed concern that whether or not it is contractually binding would impact bidding and possibly be an avenue for contract disputes. MDT stated that some questions could lead to contract addenda and others may detail how the contract will be administered. MCA asked if the specification would be distributed for comment with MDT responding by saying that it would be put out for comment.

2. General Discussion. MCA has had some concerns with distribution of supplemental specifications for comment. As they are presently distributed, some MCA members have not received draft supplemental specifications for review. MCA and MDT will work jointly to

improve distribution. MCA discussed whether they should respond as a group or individually. MCA will respond as a group along with some individually submitted comments.

Mark Wissinger stated the department received numerous comments on the proposed rewrite on section 559 (Pile specifications). Comment periods for Specifications 409, 551, 559 have all been extended to allow MCA more time to submit their comments.

In addition, MDT is working on revising the drilled shaft special provision and once the draft is complete, it will be distributed for comment, possibly next month.

The next meeting will be **February 26, 2003**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the **MCA Office**.

cc:	Darrin Grenfell, FHWA	Bob Kober	District Construction Engrs.
	Joel Marshik	Suzi Althof	
	James Walther	Carl Peil	
	Mark Wissinger	Scott Barnes	
	Matt Strizich	Kent Barnes	
	MCA- Attn, Dee Dee Johnson		